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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/823,566

03/30/2001

Jay H. Connelly

42390P10859

6351

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06/05/2007

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EXAMINER

CHAMPAGNE, DONALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/05/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,566

Applicant(s)

CONNELLY, JAY H.

Examiner

Donald L. Champagne

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-11 and 13-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-11 and 13-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6 Dec 2006.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 22 March 2007 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klosterman et al. (US005940073A).
4. Klosterman et al. teaches (independent claims 1, 7 and 13) a method, computer readable storage medium and apparatus, the method comprising:

maintaining an electronic program guide (EPG) for broadcast content (col. 5 lines 48-53);

receiving content information (col. 4 lines 63-67) from a content service provider (*distribution center*, col. 4 lines 29-35) for one or more stored content data files (the content stored in the receiving devices, col. 4 lines 53-62), wherein each of the one or more stored content data files (inherently) occupies its own storage space at a client device;

allowing the content service provider to determine a number of line items (e.g., information region **220**) in an EPG to represent the content information for the one or more stored content data files (col. 5 lines 53-57);

allocating the determined number of line items in the EPG (Fig. 2(a));

allowing a user access to the one or more stored content data files (e.g., item 260 in Fig. 2(b)) via the electronic program guide (Fig. 2(a)) by linking, which reads on merging, the content information for display in the determined number of line items, wherein the EPG includes the content information for the one or more stored content data files and content information for the broadcast content (col. 5 lines 64-66 and col. 6 lines 5-15 and 47-54);

charging the content service provider a predetermined amount for each allocated line item (col. 6 lines 34-36 and 54-57); and

storing a content data file to be broadcast at a later time (col. 6 lines 13-15).

5. Klosterman et al. does not teach that once the user accesses one of the one or more stored content data files, making the storage space of the accessed stored content data file at the client device available for storage of the content data file to be broadcast at a later time. Because storage space is not infinite, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add to the teachings of Klosterman et al. that once the user accesses one of the one or more stored content data files, making the storage space of the accessed stored content data file at the client device available for storage of another content data file to be broadcast at a later time.
6. Klosterman et al. also teaches at the citations given above claims 2, 8, and 14; and claims 4, 10 and 16, where the content service provider is *NBC* and the allocated line item is item **220** in Fig. 2(a)).
7. Klosterman et al. also teaches claims 3, 9 and 15 (col. 11 lines 22-27, where *National News* in Fig. 9(a) is a category and Fig. 9(b) shows its allocated line items); and claims 5, 11 and 17 (col. 2 line 3 and col. 12 lines 12-20).

### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments filed with an amendment on 22 March 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
9. Applicant argues (pp. 9-10) that Klosterman et al. does not teach or suggest the last limitation of each of the independent claims. Para. 5 above acknowledges that Klosterman et al. does not teach the limitation, and the examiner acknowledges that Klosterman et al. does not suggest the limitation either. Rather, it is common sense which suggests the

limitation: making the storage space of an accessed stored content data file available for storage of another content data file to be broadcast at a later time. What is the purpose of the storage space if not to store content not yet viewed? As to choice of storage space, there are only two options: either use storage space currently occupied by content data files already viewed (accessed), or use storage space not currently occupied by content data files already viewed. If one has no interest in viewing the content again, then the first option is the preferred choice. If one definitely wants to view the content again, then the second option is the preferred choice. In either case, both options would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention.

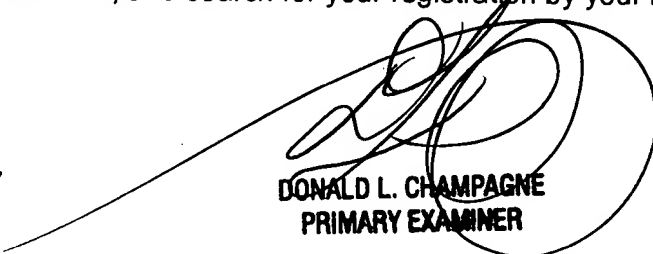
### **Conclusion**

10. This is a continuation of applicant's earlier Application No. 09823566. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
11. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Champagne whose telephone number is 571-272-6717. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:30 AM to 8 PM ET, Monday to Thursday. The examiner can also be contacted by e-mail at [donald.champagne@uspto.gov](mailto:donald.champagne@uspto.gov), and *informal* fax communications (i.e., communications not to be made of record) may be sent directly to the examiner at 571-273-6717. The fax phone number for all *formal* matters is 571-273-8300.

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13. The examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, can be reached on 571-272-6724.
14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).
15. **AFTER FINAL PRACTICE** – Consistent with MPEP § 706.07(f) and 713.09, prosecution generally ends with the final rejection. Examiner will grant an interview after final only when applicant presents compelling evidence that "disposal or clarification for appeal may be accomplished with only nominal further consideration" (MPEP § 713.09). The burden is on applicant to demonstrate this requirement, preferably in no more than 25 words. Amendments are entered after final only when the amendments will clearly simplify issues, or put the case into condition for allowance, clearly and without additional search or more than nominal consideration.
16. Applicant may have after final arguments considered and amendments entered by filing an RCE.
17. **ABANDONMENT** – If examiner cannot by telephone verify applicant's intent to continue prosecution, the application is subject to abandonment six months after mailing of the last Office action. The agent, attorney or applicant point of contact is responsible for assuring that the Office has their telephone number. Agents and attorneys may verify their registration information including telephone number at the Office's web site, [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov). At the top of the home page, click on Site Index. Then click on Agent & Attorney Roster in the alphabetic list, and search for your registration by your name or number.

24 May 2007

  
DONALD L. CHAMPAGNE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Donald L. Champagne  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3622